



Most Americans view Israel as a partner, but fewer see it as sharing U.S. values, AP-NORC poll shows

By MATTHEW LEE and
LINLEY SANDERS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As President Joe Biden prepares to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week in New York, a new poll finds that while Americans generally view Israel as a partner or ally, many question whether his far-right government shares American values.

The poll results from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the meeting come during a new period of tension between the Biden administration and Israel. Those tensions are caused by Netanyahu's proposed judicial overhaul that has sparked mass protests in major Israeli cities, ongoing disagreements over how to deal with Iran and how to approach the Palestinians, and comments from Netanyahu political allies that have irked U.S. officials.



Israelis opposed to a contentious government plan to overhaul the judiciary wave Israeli and American flags during a protest in support of President Joe Biden, who criticized the plan this week, outside of the U.S.

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Continued from Front

Despite the friction, Biden, who spoke out in barely disguised opposition to the judicial plan, and Netanyahu are expected to project a solid partnership in which the U.S. continues to support Israel's security.

Biden will also emphasize that the U.S. is continuing to work on expanding the Trump-era Abraham Accords, which normalized Israeli relations with several Arab countries, to include Saudi Arabia. However, there is little sign of an imminent breakthrough on that front.

Although the poll showed that Americans overwhelmingly view Israel as more of a friend than a foe, it also found that they are divided on whether Israel is a country with which the U.S. shares common interests and values.

About 4 in 10 Americans described Israel as a partner with which the U.S. should cooperate, but they also said the country does



President Joe Biden meets with Israel's President Isaac Herzog in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, July 18, 2023. Associated Press

not share U.S. interests and values, the poll found. Only about 3 in 10 said Israel is an ally that shares U.S. interests. Republicans (44%) are more likely than Democrats (25%) to call Israel an ally with shared values. About 2 in 10 Americans described Israel as either a U.S. rival or an adversary.

The U.S. provides Israel with more than \$3 billion a year in military and other assistance and the close relationship has endured over the decades despite not

infrequent spats over policy, most notably over Iran and treatment of the Palestinians.

Overall, 61% of Americans disapprove of how Biden is handling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with only 35% approving. That number was slightly lower than Biden's overall approval rating.

Many Americans don't see a need for the U.S. to change its position in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. About 4 in 10 Americans,

or 44%, said the U.S. gives about the right amount of support to Israel in the conflict, while 27% said it's too supportive of Israel and 23% not supportive enough.

About the same percentage, 42%, say the correct amount of support is given to the Palestinians, with 30% saying they want more support and 21% wanting less. Among Republicans, 34% said they would like the U.S. to give more support to Israel, but slightly more (40%) say the current level is sufficient. Only 11% of Democrats said the U.S. needs to be giving more assistance to Israel. About half of Democrats said the current amount is "about right" while only about a third said the U.S. is too supportive of Israel, the poll found. In their meeting Wednesday, Biden is expected to reaffirm steadfast American commitment to Israel's security in the turbulent Middle East. At the same time, his administration is hoping to give Netanyahu one of his major asks — en-

try into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, which would allow Israelis to visit the United States on a temporary basis without a visa.

U.S. law requires that Americans, including Palestinian-Americans, be treated the same in order to qualify for the program. Israel has taken several steps to ensure equal treatment for all Americans entering Israel but it has only until the end of September to prove that the criteria have been met. Otherwise, Israel must re-qualify for the program during the next budget year, which begins Oct. 1.

In terms of the Palestinian conflict, about two-thirds of Americans profess neutrality, according to the AP-NORC poll — 37% said they sympathize with neither Israel nor the Palestinians, while 29% said they sympathized with both equally.

A similar percentage, 58%, said they neither favor nor oppose the creation of a Palestinian state, while 22% favor it and 15% oppose it. □



The Federal Trade Commission building, Jan. 28, 2015, in Washington. Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Parents whose kids bought virtual gear without their knowledge on the popular Fortnite video game could

soon be able to get a refund.

U.S. regulators are starting to notify more than 37 million people by email that

Did your kids buy gear in Fortnite without asking you? The FTC says you could get a refund

they may be eligible for compensation as part of a legal settlement with Fortnite's maker, Epic Games Inc. The Federal Trade Commission announced late last year that Epic Games would pay \$520 million in penalties and refunds to settle complaints revolving around children's privacy and its payment methods that tricked players into making unintended purchases.

Part of that \$520 million consists of \$245 million in customer refunds, as part

of a settlement finalized in March. It's meant to cover some of the costs of unwanted V-Bucks, the game's in-game currency, or virtual items such as outfits or cartoonish purple llama loot crates.

Consumers have until Jan. 17 to submit a claim.

Epic Games had also agreed to pay a \$275 million fine for collecting personal information on Fortnite players under the age of 13 without informing their parents or getting their consent. It was the biggest

penalty ever imposed for breaking an FTC rule.

According to the FTC, those eligible for refunds include Fortnite users charged in-game currency for items they didn't want between January 2017 and September 2022; those whose child made charges to their credit card without their knowledge between January 2017 and November 2018; and those whose account was locked after they complained to their credit card company about wrongful charges. □

Network of ancient American Indian earthworks in Ohio named as UNESCO World Heritage sites

By JULIE CARR SMYTH

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A network of ancient American Indian ceremonial and burial mounds in Ohio described as "part cathedral, part cemetery and part astronomical observatory" was added Tuesday to the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Preservationists, led by the Ohio History Connection, and indigenous tribes, many with ancestral ties to the state, pushed to recognize the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks for their good condition, distinct style and cultural significance — describing them as "masterpieces of human genius."

UNESCO's World Heritage Committee approved the application during a meeting in Saudi Arabia.

The massive earthworks comprise eight ancient sites spread across 150 kilometers (90 miles) of what is present-day southern Ohio, including one located on the grounds of a private golf course and country club. The designation puts the spot in the same category as wonders of the world including Greece's Acropolis, Peru's Machu Picchu and the Great Wall of China.

"Pure excitement and exhilaration" were the immediate reactions of Chief Glenna Wallace of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

"Tears came to my eyes, and exhilaration turned into reflection, knowing that the world will now see and recognize the commitment, spirituality, imaginative artistry and knowledge of complex architecture to produce magnificent earthworks," she said in a statement. "Our ancestors were true geniuses."

Constructed by American Indians between 2,000 and 1,600 years ago along central tributaries of the Ohio River, the earthworks were host to ceremonies that drew people from across the continent, based on

archeological discoveries of raw materials from as far west as the Rocky Mountains.

Elaborate ceremonialism linked to "the order and rhythms of the cosmos" is evident in the "beautiful ritual objects, spectacular offerings of religious icons and regalia" found at the sites, the application said. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said the designation is a "tremendous" recognition of America's Indigenous people.

"World Heritage designation is an opportunity for the United States to share the whole story of America and the remarkable diversity of our cultural heritage, as well as the beauty of our land," she said in a statement.

The eight Hopewell sites are noteworthy for their enormous scale, geometric precision and astronomical breadth and accuracy — such as encoding all eight lunar standstills over an 18.6-year cycle.

"Just three months after re-joining UNESCO, the United States has its twenty-fifth site inscribed on the World Heritage List, which illustrates the richness and diversity of the country's cultural and natural heritage," she said. "This inscription on the World Heritage List highlights the important work of American archaeologists, who discovered here remains dating back 2000 years, constituting one of the largest earthwork constructions in the world."

The National Congress of American Indians, the Inter-Tribal Council representing tribes living in Northeast Oklahoma and the Seneca Nation of New York State were among tribes that supported the UNESCO designation.

The application process was slowed by a protracted court battle to restore public access to one of the earthworks leased to the Moundbuilders Country Club, whose members-only golf course sits inside it. A ruling of the Ohio Supreme

Court in December allowed Ohio History Connection, the state's historical society, to proceed with an ongoing effort to gain control of the Octagon Earthworks in Newark, one of eight sites recognized.

History Connection CEO and Executive Director Megan Wood said that Tuesday's inscription of the site was the culmination of more than a decade of work by her organization and its partners, including tribes and the National Park Service.

"We are beyond excited to share these sites with more and more Ohioans, Americans and world travelers," she said. Other sites includ-



A 155-foot diameter circular enclosure around hole number 3 at Moundbuilders Country Club at the Octagon Earthworks in Newark, Ohio, is pictured July 30, 2019.

Associated Press

ed under the new designation are: Fort Ancient Earthworks in Oregonia and Great Circle Earthworks in Heath; and five sites within the Hopewell Culture Na-

tional Historical Park in Chillicothe: Mound City Group, Hopewell Mound Group, Seip Earthworks, High Bank Earthworks and Hopeton Earthworks. □

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Southern Baptists expel Oklahoma church after pastor defends his blackface and Native caricatures

By **PETER SMITH**
Associated Press

The Southern Baptist Convention has ousted an Oklahoma church whose pastor defended his blackface performance at one church event and his impersonation of a Native American woman at another.

The Executive Committee of the nation's largest Protestant denomination voted Tuesday that Matoaka Baptist Church of Ochelata "be deemed not in friendly cooperation with the convention" the official terminology for an expulsion.

The church's pastor, Sherman Jaquess, dressed in blackface for a 2017 church Valentine's Day event, in which he claimed to be impersonating the late soul singer Ray Charles. Jaquess wore dark facial makeup, a large Afro wig and dark glasses and smiled broadly as he sang a duet. Some in the crowd can be heard laughing during the video of the performance. The video was brought to light earlier this year by a Tulsa community activist, Marq Lewis.



Delegates hold up their ballots at the Southern Baptist Convention at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

Associated Press

Another Facebook photo, published by the Examiner-Enterprise of Bartlesville, also surfaced, showing Jaquess dressed as a Native American woman at a "Cowboys and Indians" night at a church camp. The photo shows a man dressed as a cowboy, holding an apparently fake gun to Jaquess in jest while a

boy dressed as a cowboy is poised with raised fists next to him. In a Facebook post earlier this year, Lewis wrote: "He didn't just mimic Ray Charles, he distorted the features and culture of African Americans and also Indigenous Americans with his offensive Pocahontas caricature. He is promoting the hatred that sees Afri-

can Americans and Indigenous Americans as not only different but less than. " Jaquess did not immediately respond to a request for comment sent via email. Lewis praised the Executive Committee's action. "For him (Jaquess) to not apologize, and double down on it, to me I felt this is a pastor that needed to

be exposed," Lewis said in an interview. "I'm grateful that the Southern Baptist organization said, 'We don't want to have anything to do with this.'" Blackface performances date back to minstrel shows of the 1800s, in which performers darkened their faces to create bigoted caricatures of Black people.

Jaquess defended his actions when they came to light, saying he was playing tribute to Ray Charles and that he doesn't "have a racist bone in my body," according to the Examiner-Enterprise.

Jaquess, who has campaigned against public drag shows, said in a sermon posted on Facebook that his "dressing up like Pocahontas" was not a drag performance because it wasn't sexual. Drag performers are generally described as entertainers who dress and act as a different gender. In the sermon, Jaquess said he has "Cherokee blood in me but I put some brown makeup on. ... I was trying to look like a Native American woman." □

Census Bureau wants to test asking about sexual orientation and gender identity on biggest survey

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
Associated Press

The U.S. Census Bureau asked the Biden administration Tuesday for permission to test questions about sexual orientation and gender identity for people age 15 and above on its most comprehensive annual survey of life in the country. The statistical agency wants to test the wording, response categories and placement of gender identity and sexual orientation questions on the questionnaires for the American Community Survey, which collects data from 3.5 million households each year. The ACS covers a wide range of topics, from fam-

ily life, income, education levels and employment to commuting times, internet access, disabilities and military service. Federal agencies are interested in the data for civil rights and equal employment enforcement, the Census Bureau said in a Federal Register notice. Because of the American Community Survey's size, asking those questions will give researchers a chance to look at differences among LGBTQ+ people, whether some face bigger challenges than others because of their race, gender or where they live, said M. V. Lee Badgett, an economics professor at the

University of Massachusetts Amherst. "We can learn about health, economic, housing and other outcomes that might be worse for LGBT people because of the stigma and discrimination that they face, and we can track changes over time to see if laws and policies are leading to more equality," Badgett said. The Census Bureau already has requested millions of dollars to study how best to ask about sexual orientation and gender identity. The results could provide much better data about the LGBTQ+ population nationwide at a time when views about sexual orien-

tation and gender identity are evolving. As the nation's largest statistical agency, the bureau sets

an example for how other agencies and businesses ask these questions. □



A rainbow flower sits in the jacket pocket of Scout, a transgender man who uses one name, at his home in Providence, R.I., June 8, 2022.

Associated Press

Spain allows Catalan, Basque and Galician languages in Parliament. EU ponders use in Brussels

By JOSEPH WILSON and
LORNE COOK
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — In a victory for millions of Spaniards who speak a language other than Spanish, the European nation's Parliament allowed its national legislators to use Catalan, Basque and Galician for the first time on Tuesday. The reform of the linguistic policy of Spain's lower chamber was a demand of Catalan separatist parties to support the appointment of a Socialist as the new Parliamentary Speaker last month following inconclusive national elections in July.

Spain's government is also trying to have Catalan, Basque and Galician recognized as languages that can be used in the European Union even though that faces a much longer and apparently difficult path. The right to speak languages other than Spanish in the national Parliament is a long-held objective of smaller parties from the regions in Spain's north that have bilingual populations. "(This change is) ... to normalize something that is al-



Catalan President Pere Aragonés walks in front of the Spanish Parliament in Madrid, Spain, on April 21, 2022.

Associated Press

ready common for citizens who speak a language other than Spanish," said Socialist Party member José Ramón Besteiro, who alternated between Galician and Spanish to become the first lawmaker to take advantage of the modification.

The Madrid-based Parliament provided simultaneous translation with ear-

pieces for the 350 members of the chamber as well as for the nationally televised transmission of the session. This support of Spain's minority languages comes as acting Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez is hoping to cobble together the backing from nationalist and even separatist parties from Catalonia and the Basque Country to form a new left-

wing government.

The conservative opposition was against the reform, saying it would make debating more difficult. They also chided the Socialist Party for having caved in to pressure from Catalonia's separatists.

"We all know that we are not here to promote the use of the languages," said conservative Popular Party

lawmaker Borja Sémper, peppering his speech with Basque to the surprise of many fellow lawmakers. "That only makes sense if we accept the deception, when there is only one problem: that Pedro Sánchez needs the votes of the separatists."

Members of the far-right Vox party, which holds ultranationalist views toward Spain's regional and linguistic diversity, walked out of the chamber when Besteiro and Sémper spoke.

Catalan is spoken by around nine million people in Spain's northeast, its Balearic Islands, as well as a small population in France. Galician is spoken by some two million people in northwestern Spain, while Basque has 750,000 speakers in Spain's Basque Country and Navarra regions.

Meanwhile in Brussels, the EU's General Affairs Council debated the possible inclusion of the three languages but was unable to reach an agreement Tuesday. Some countries said they needed more time to study the proposal and its implications. □

Dutch caretaker government unveils budget plan to spend 2 billion per year extra to fight poverty

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The caretaker Dutch government announced Tuesday that it will spend an extra 2 billion euros (\$2.1 billion) per year to tackle poverty in this nation where the gap between rich and poor is shaping up as a major campaign theme ahead of a November general election.

The announcement came on Prince's Day, when the monarch reads a speech outlining government plans for the coming year and the finance minister unveils the annual budget.

The policy plans were restrained because the governing coalition is in caretaker mode after quitting

in July over the four parties' failure to agree on a package of measures to rein in migration. An election is

scheduled for Nov. 22 and will be followed by possibly lengthy negotiations to form a new coalition.



Netherlands' Prime Minister Mark Rutte speaks during a press conference at the Serbia Palace, in Belgrade, Serbia, on July 3, 2023.

Associated Press

Prime Minister Mark Rutte, the country's longest-serving premier, has said he will quit politics once a new coalition is formed.

While the Dutch economy remains healthy, many households on lower incomes have been hit hard by inflation over the last year, fueling discontent in society. The extra expenditure will be covered in part by raising taxes on the wealthy as well as increasing taxes on tobacco and alcohol.

"It is appropriate, given its caretaker status, that the government show restraint," said Finance Minister Sigrid Kaag. "We nevertheless have a responsibility to strive for a decent stan-

dard of living for all, now and in the future. We will do what has to be done until a new government takes office."

Government expenditure is expected to exceed €430 billion over the next year while revenue will be more than €402 billion. The country is expected to have a budget deficit of 2.9% of gross domestic product in 2024 while national debt will be 47.3% of GDP, the government said.

Anti-immigration lawmaker Geert Wilders, who leads the largest opposition party in the Dutch parliament's lower house, said he was disappointed in the budget. □

Women who say they were abused by a onetime Jesuit artist denounce an apparent rehabilitation effort

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) —

Women who say they were abused by a once-prominent Jesuit artist said Tuesday they had been revictimized by his superiors, saying Pope Francis' recent gestures and an apparent effort to exonerate him publicly showed church pledges of "zero tolerance" were just a "publicity stunt."

In an open letter published on an Italian survivor advocate site, the women lashed out at a declaration from the Vicariate of Rome, which Francis nominally heads as bishop of Rome and recently tightened his grip over. The Vicariate reported Monday that it had uncovered "seriously anomalous procedures" used in the Vatican investigation into the Rev. Marko Ivan Rupnik.

The Slovene priest, whose mosaics decorate churches and basilicas around the globe, was declared excommunicated by the Vatican in May 2020 and was kicked out of the Jesuit order this summer after he was accused by several



Pope Francis presides over a mass on St. Peter and Paul's Day in St. Peter's Basilica at The Vatican on June 29, 2023.

adult women of sexual, psychological and spiritual abuses.

After the allegations came to light in the Italian media last year, the Vicariate of Rome conducted its own investigation into the art and study center that Rupnik founded in Rome, the Centro Aletti. The Vicariate reported Monday that its investigation deter-

mined that the center had a "healthy community life," free of any problems, and said its members had suffered from the public airing of the claims against their founder, Rupnik.

The center has long stood by Rupnik, with current leader Maria Campatelli saying in June that the claims against him were "defamatory and unprov-

en" and amounted to a form of mediatic "lynching" against the Slovene priest and his art center.

Francis last week had a well-publicized, private audience with Campatelli, and photographs distributed by the Vatican showed them sitting together at the pope's desk in his formal library in the Apostolic Palace, a place reserved for

his official audiences.

In the letter, five women who made claims against Rupnik said that Francis' audience with Campatelli and the report by his Vicariate "leave us speechless, with no voice to cry out our dismay, our scandal."

"In these two events, which are not accidental, even in their succession in time, we recognize that the church cares nothing for the victims and those seeking justice; and that the 'zero tolerance on abuse in the church' was just a publicity campaign, which was instead only followed by often covert actions, which instead supported and covered up the abusers," they wrote.

The letter, posted on italy-churchtoo.org, noted that Rupnik's alleged victims wrote to the pope four different letters, and never received a response much less an audience. "The victims are left with a voiceless cry of new abuse," the letter concluded, signed by five women whose names until Tuesday had been known only to the church authorities who had received their claims. □

Associated Press

Supporters of Guatemala's president-elect block highways and roads to protest prosecution

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) —

Thousands of farmers and Indigenous supporters on Tuesday blocked roads and streets in Guatemala to defend the president-elect as government prosecutors seek to ban his political party.

Protests organized by the Farmworkers' Development Council set up about 14 blockades on Guatemala's seven main highways and blocked several streets in Guatemala City. Protesters are demanding the resignation of prosecutors who have sought to ban the Seed Movement party of president-elect Bernardo Arévalo.

Arévalo won the Aug. 20 presidential runoff in a landslide, but prosecutors have continued pursuing mul-

tiple investigations related to the registration of Seed Movement, and alleged fraud in the election. Inter-

national observers have said that is not supported by evidence.

Earlier this week Aleisar Arana, a leader of the Xinca ethnic group, called the prosecutions an attempt at a "coup." "The coup that the prosecution is leading must be stopped," Arana said. Protesters threatened to keep demonstrating until the efforts against Arévalo are stopped. Arévalo announced plans last week to call Guatemalans into the streets to protest efforts to derail his presidency before he can take office, he said Friday in an interview with The Associated Press.

A coalition of academic

and rights groups issued a statement Monday saying that international pressure should be stepped up to ensure Guatemala respects the results of the elections. Arévalo, a progressive lawmaker and academic, shocked Guatemala by making it into the runoff in which he beat former first lady Sandra Torres by more than 20 points. The attorney general's office has said it is only following the law, but has come under intense criticism within Guatemala and abroad for what appears to be a brazen attempt to keep Arévalo from coming to power, or to weaken him. □



Indigenous people march for the resignation of the Attorney General Consuelo Porras in Guatemala City, Monday, Sept. 18, 2023.

Associated Press

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Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the

French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was

known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain.

However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

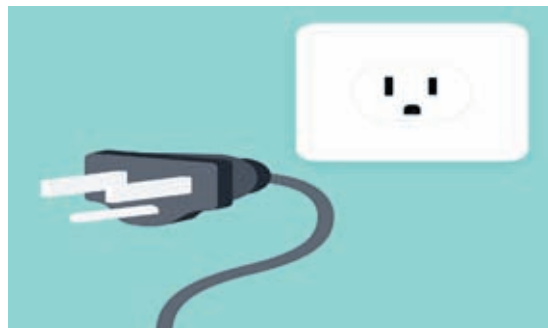
Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began

to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling. Source: visitaruba.com □

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba



(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Emergency services

Even though most people don't even want to think about having to contact emergency services—especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or severe incident.

Police: 100
Police Tipline: 11141
Ambulance: 911
Fire Dept: 115
Oranjestad: HOH hospital: +297-527-4000
San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-527-8833

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island.

Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Taxis

Prices for taxi fair are set by the Department of Public Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to five passengers, but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for \$45 an hour.

Safety

Aruba is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe. □

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Paul Dale who is from Clearfield, Pennsylvania, USA**. Paul shared two photos

with us along with a beautiful message about what Aruba means to him.

He wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is relaxing. Aruba to me is Heaven on Earth."

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Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!



(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of

these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to

a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserving our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! ☐

Aruba to me

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Episode CCXXIV - 224: From out of our hearts



In this episode, we at Etnia Nativa would like to make use of the opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Caribbean Speed Printing and its Aruba Today newspaper, which since 2019 has been collaborating by sharing our cultural topics regarding island culture, social heritage, ethical, and political values of our beloved rock. Revealing the insides of Aruba to the world and fulfilling our mutual objectives, we also thank the acceptance of our readers, since without them; all our efforts would be echoed in the wilderness.

We are so happy that our episodes have provided new sources of interest by highlighting the Aruba native side of its cultural image, contributing to and increasing a notable interest in getting to know the island life from within—a peek into the real and authentic Aruba.

One of the facets and objectives of Etnia Nativa is to share its knowledge through our private selective lectures in its unique facility and

through our shared literature, much of which is directed to this prestigious newspaper, offering a continued flow of interesting cultural articles.

Aruba has a very valuable intangible cultural heritage that includes oral traditions, performing arts, rituals, festive events, and the knowledge and skills to create traditional foods, arts, and crafts. A "living heritage" that includes practices, expressions, knowledge, and techniques transmitted from generation to generation; sharing these traditions is Etnia Nativa's objectives by positioning itself as a tour de force of Aruba's heritage, covering the artistic, literary, philosophical, linguistic, historical, ethnographic, sociological, and its collective idiosyncrasy, presenting an essential inside tour for anyone interested in the native legacy and roots of its original inhabitants who in time intermarried new comers of the "old world".

Etnia Nativa has been a trend setter since 1994, having the honor of inspiring Aruba's Certifica-

tion Program, Cosecha Gallery, Kulture Café, Art Gallery's, a wide range of artists and respective foundations, tour guides and their companies, taxi drivers, hotels, AirB&B, Aruba Art Fair, and other organizations in and around Aruba, in addition to having actively participated in the realization of the island's National Park project and Archaeological Museum. Its gratitude goes to all of them who, with their daily actions, are contributing to spreading the culture of Aruba, with the main goal of providing visitors with valuable knowledge of their island destination. Five years have already flown since we received a call from Aruba Today representatives, who saw our value in offering to frame the objectives of Etnia Nativa and so facilitate its readers to think like locals. The idea is to encourage island visitors to actively participate in a unique cultural activity that spreads the love for Aruba beyond its snow-white beaches by engaging in a completely different island experience. This newspaper deserves our gratitude for creating new and innovative sections to further disseminate Aruba's culture. Etnia Nativa feels comforted that its objectives are being spread through the "Island-Insight" platform, which has expanded our knowledge internationally.

To conclude this letter, it is also relevant to thank all our exclusive visitors, especially the young children, who, with patience and interest, enjoyed an amusing educational lecture by touring our facility. These little visitors strengthen a unique cultural project that widens their perspective of world cultures.

In appreciation of our joint tasks, Aruba Today and Etnia Nativa, we are expressing our gratitude to everyone involved for their sincere efforts and love for Aruba, our beloved rock. Etnia Nativa as a disclosing educational project was born out of the initiative and determination of a couple, Silvia and Anthony, the wizards behind initiative, who understood the importance of conserving, protecting, and displaying exclusive family collections of objects, art works, antiques, photographs, and more, all rooted in Aruba since 1640.

Anthony's extensive general knowledge concerning archaeology, flora, fauna, art, and more initially sparked great interest among his close friends, who insisted that the valuable legacy had to be shared with everyone, culminating in what today has become one of Aruba's major private attractions, an authentic hidden gem and destination experience.

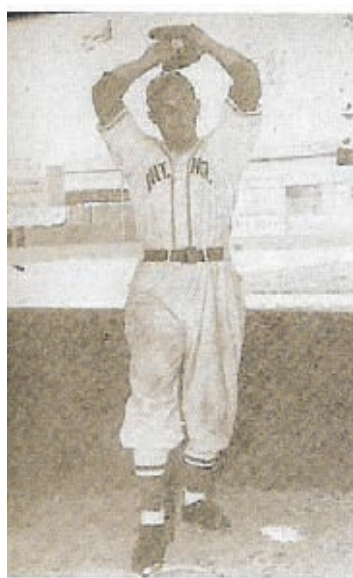
Booking a magical glimpse inside Etnia Nativa WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com

Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.



Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.



In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team.



Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a double-header of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played



in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band. Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan im-



migrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers".

Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950.

In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team

managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Series that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Boggaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □

Written by Mr. Clyde Harms

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

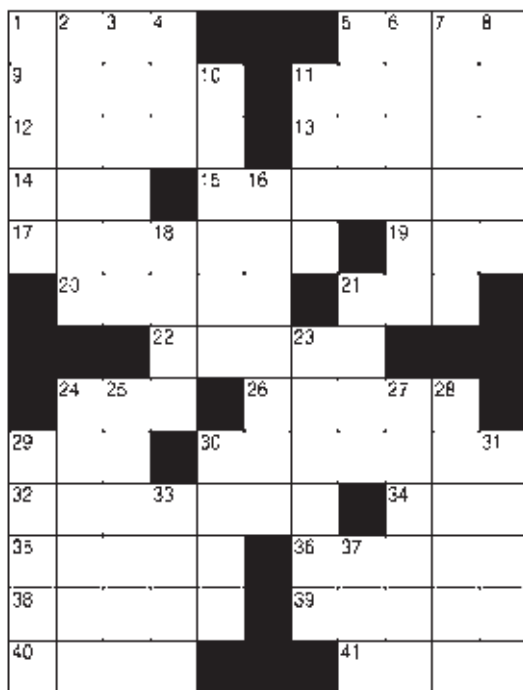
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1 Fresh reaction
5 Whole lot
9 Foals' mothers

DOWN 1 Big hit
2 Refined women
3 Turkish peak
4 Coat rack part
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17 Congress event
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29 Sermon topic
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34 Eurasian deer
35 Blundered
36 Get smart
38 Eat away
39 Door sign



Yesterday's answer

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21 Saloon staple
23 Snoopy, e.g.
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27 Sea rover
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29 Search for bugs
30 Await
31 Book category
33 Some wines
37 Sch. subj.



AXYDI.BAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-20

CRYPTOQUOTE

P Y O M P V Z N U F O R V S O

B M R K O J Z , C U Y J K K D V R B U

P C X Y E Y V X V L Z J E Y U .

— J M U O K J N J S U

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO BE A MESS AND COMPLETELY UNLIKABLE.

— VIOLA DAVIS

Foreign firms in China say vague rules and tensions with Washington hurting business, surveys show

By ELAINE KURTENBACH
AP Business Writer

Foreign companies operating in China say tensions with Washington over technology, trade and other issues and uncertainty over Chinese policies are damaging the business environment and causing some to reassess their plans for investing in the giant market. The results of surveys released Tuesday by the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai and by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China largely concurred in appealing for greater certainty and clarity over China's stance toward foreign businesses.

"For decades, European companies thrived in China, benefitting from a stable and efficient business environment. However, after the turbulent past three years, many have reevaluated their basic assumptions about the Chinese market," Jens Eskelund, the EU Chamber's president said, in a letter that accompanied the report. Eskelund said that predictability and reliability had been undermined by "erratic policy shifts," hurting confidence in China's growth prospects.

"At the top of a growing list of questions about the Chinese market is, what kind of relationship does China want to have with foreign enterprises?" he said. The Shanghai AmCham's survey showed a continued downgrading of China's importance as an overseas destination for investment, even though two-thirds of the 325 com-



A man with a shopping bag walks out from a ZARA flagship store at a shopping mall in Beijing, on June 21, 2023.

Associated Press

panies responding said they had no immediate plans to change their China strategy.

Just over one in five of the companies surveyed said they were decreasing their investment in China this year, with the top reason being uncertainty about the U.S.-China trade relationship, followed by expectations of slower growth in China, it said.

Overall, the survey showed sentiment worsened from last year, when companies were embroiled in disruptions from "zero-COVID" policies that caused parts of entire cities, transport networks and travel to be shut down, sometimes for weeks at a time. Such disruptions were a major "push factor" that companies cited in expanding their operations outside China, the survey showed. Asked about the survey, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Beijing has recently taken measures to attract foreign investment and that China welcomes foreign companies to in-

vest and operate in China. "What I can tell you is that China's economy is resilient, promising and dynamic, and the fundamentals of long-term development have not changed," said the spokesperson, Mao Ning.

"The outstanding advantages of a super-sized market and a complete industrial system have also remained unchanged," she said.

While 52% of those surveyed by AmCham Shanghai said they were optimistic about their five-year business outlook in China, that was the lowest figure since the group began the annual survey in 1999.

Nearly nine in 10 companies said rising costs were a big challenge.

Intensifying competition has also been worsened by policies that favor local companies over foreign ones and courts that tend to favor Chinese companies in decisions on protection of intellectual property such as patents and trademarks, the chamber said.

Companies face a growing threat from "nimble, innovative local businesses and state-owned enterprises, which have enjoyed stronger support in recent years and whose consolidation has made them increasingly competitive with large multinational corporations," the survey said. □

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24/7

Did your kids buy gear in Fortnite without asking you? The FTC says you could get a refund

WASHINGTON (AP) — Parents whose kids bought virtual gear without their knowledge on the popular Fortnite video game could soon be able to get a refund. U.S. regulators are starting to notify more than 37 million people by email that they may be eligible for compensation as part of a legal settlement with Fortnite's maker, Epic Games Inc.

The Federal Trade Commission announced late last year that Epic Games would pay \$520 million in penalties and refunds to settle complaints revolving around children's privacy and its payment methods that tricked players into making unintended purchases. Part of that \$520 million consists of \$245 million in customer refunds, as part of a settlement finalized in March. It's meant to cover some of the costs of unwanted V-Bucks, the game's in-game currency, or virtual items such as outfits or cartoonish purple llama loot crates. Consumers have until Jan. 17 to submit a claim.

Epic Games had also agreed to pay a \$275 million fine for collecting personal information on Fortnite players under the age of 13 without informing their parents or getting their



The Federal Trade Commission building, Jan. 28, 2015, in Washington.

Associated Press

consent. It was the biggest penalty ever imposed for breaking an FTC rule.

According to the FTC, those eligible for refunds include Fortnite users charged in-game currency for items they didn't want between January 2017 and September 2022; those whose child made charges to their credit card without their knowledge between January 2017 and November 2018; and those whose account was locked after they complained to their credit card company about wrongful charges. Epic Games said after settling the case in December that it would implement additional safeguards to prevent unintended purchases. □



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Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
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Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
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For filmmakers, 'Oppenheimer's' \$900M-plus haul is an important moment for Hollywood and theaters

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

Hopes were always high for Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer." The studio knew the film was great, and commercial. But no one in the industry expected that a long, talky, R-rated drama released at the height of the summer movie season would earn over \$900 million at the box office.

After an early screening, "Dune" filmmaker Denis Villeneuve said he knew he'd just seen "a masterpiece." He even remembered saying that it would be a big success.

"But where it is right now has blown the roof off of my projection," Villeneuve told The Associated Press. "It's a three-hour movie about people talking about nuclear physics."

As of Monday, "Oppenheimer's" global total was nearly \$913 million, making it Nolan's third highest grossing film, trailing only the "Dark Knight" sequels. It's also the third biggest film of the year behind "Barbie" and "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" and the most successful biopic ever, surpassing "Bohemian Rhapsody." It's a staggering sum that has been driven by audiences of all ages and an enthusiasm for film and large format screenings.

"When you make a film, you hope that you're going to connect with an audience in some form or another," "Oppenheimer" producer Emma Thomas told the AP. "But, particularly with a three-hour film that has a serious subject and is challenging in many ways, this sort of success is beyond our wildest imaginings."

Even after nine weeks in theaters, 11 of the 25 screens capable of projecting the coveted IMAX 70mm prints (Nolan's preferred format) continued to play the film on some of the busiest screens, like the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles and the AMC Lincoln Square in New York.

"The reason we're still in



This image released by Universal Pictures shows director Christopher Nolan, center, and Cillian Murphy, right, on the set of "Oppenheimer."

Associated Press

those theaters is because the audience is demanding it," Thomas said. "This is not something that we can impose. I wish we could, but it's genuine."

Thomas, who is married to Nolan, has produced all of his films going back to his short "Doodlebug." From "Memento" and "The Prestige" to "Inception," "Interstellar" and "Dunkirk," their original films have often defied conventional box-office logic. With "Oppenheimer," they felt good about what they'd made but also know that the marketplace, and box-office tracking, has been a little unpredictable since the pandemic.

"Chris has always made films that challenge audiences," Thomas said. "He has faith in his audiences and, generally, they've met him where he is."

Their "pipe dream," she said, was that it would beat "Dunkirk's" opening weekend. Instead, it nearly doubled it. Now, "Oppenheimer" has many in the industry looking at the Universal Pictures release as a gratifying affirmation that projection and format aren't just the domain of a few. Mass audiences are interested too.

"When a filmmaker as strong as Chris is pointing a finger at you and telling you where to go...you listen...and audiences have been rewarded for it," filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson wrote in an email. "I know some film buffs who drove from El Paso to Dallas to see the film properly. That's about 18 hours round trip."

Twenty-four of the 25 top earning theaters showing "Oppenheimer" played it in IMAX 70mm or 70mm. Domestically, the 25 IMAX 70mm screens have grossed some \$20 million; standard 70mm locations accounted for over \$14 million. And this a decade after production of Kodak motion picture film stock nearly ceased.

"I don't think there's anyone who could disagree - seeing 'Oppenheimer' on film is superior in every single way," Anderson said. "Not to mention, people are tired of asking, 'Why would I go to a movie theater to watch TV?' Good question...you don't have to anymore."

Theaters rallied around "Oppenheimer" from the beginning. The historic TCL Chinese Theatre even brought a film projector

back into operation and built a custom booth. It was an effort that was richly rewarded: "Oppenheimer" is the highest grossing film in its 97-year history with \$2.3 million and counting, passing the previous record holder, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," which grossed \$1.5 million in 15 weeks, after just four.

The highest grossing theater overall, though, is AMC Lincoln Square, where every IMAX 70mm showing was sold out for over four weeks. Both locations are among the 10 that will continue to present the film in IMAX 70mm in its 10th weekend. By contrast, "Dunkirk" finished its IMAX 70mm run in week eight.

What to make of theaters projecting movies on film often outgrossing the digital projection?

"I would call this is nature's way of healing," Anderson said.

Nolan, and other influential film enthusiasts like Anderson, Martin Scorsese and Quentin Tarantino have been beating the drum for celluloid for years, but Thomas said it feels like, "This is a moment where everyone else is sort of catching that bug."

"Chris has always talked a

lot about the formats and wanting people to see the best version possible, as far as the way that he intended the film to be seen. ... Now I'm hearing that there are other studios who are interested in putting their films out on those film screens," she said. "It's not that we think that film is the only way. Every every project is different and requires a different toolkit. We've always just wanted filmmakers to have that option."

And it's not exclusively film that's succeeding either. IMAX overall has seen some of its biggest profits ever from "Oppenheimer," with over \$179 million globally.

"The future of cinema is IMAX and the large formats," Villeneuve said. "The audience wants to see something that they cannot have at home, that they cannot have on streaming. They want to experience an event."

About a month into "Oppenheimer's" run, Thomas took her kids to see a matinee of "Theater Camp" and peeked into the auditorium where their movie was playing "just to see how it was doing."

"It was packed, like it was 7pm, Friday night, opening weekend," she said. "But what was fantastic was seeing the broad range of people in that screening. It was younger people, it was older people. That excitement in theaters is why we make movies."

Thomas has found it especially gratifying that the film has reached younger audiences and teenagers, whom she was told time and time again don't have the attention span for a film like "Oppenheimer."

"We have teenagers and everyone's sort of dismissing them as potential audiences," Thomas said. "They think they're just not into longform storytelling or big ideas and that's complete nonsense. ... It's just been incredibly touching, honestly, to hear people talk about the film and hear about young people going to see it multiple times." □

NFL's two 70-something coaches proving they still have what it takes to compete in this league



Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll, left, smiles after an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions in Detroit, Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023; and New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick, right, answers questions following an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023, in Foxborough, Mass.

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL's two septuagenarian coaches still have what it takes to compete in this ever-changing young man's game.

Forty-eight hours after celebrating his 72nd birthday, Pete Carroll led his Seattle Seahawks into Detroit and beat the hyped-up Lions 37-31 in overtime.

Despite starting 0-2 for the first time since 2001, Bill Belichick, who's about six months younger than Carroll, showed the same cre-

ativity as ever in unveiling a never-before-seen play to block a field goal attempt in the Patriots' 24-17 loss to Miami.

Detroit had been the darlings of the league after winning eight of its final 10 games last season, capped by a season-ending stunner at Lambeau Field that denied the Packers a playoff berth and put an emphatic end to Aaron Rodgers' tenure as Green Bay's superstar quarterback.

The "hype train," as coach Dan Campbell

has dubbed it, picked up plenty of steam when Detroit beat Patrick Mahomes and the defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs at Arrowhead Stadium in the league's opening game. Geno Smith guided the Seahawks on their longest drive of the game after Seattle won the overtime coin toss, capping a 75-yard masterpiece with a 6-yard touchdown strike to Tyler Lockett for a 37-31 win to take a tad of the luster off the Lions.

Belichick didn't win Sunday

but showed he's ingenious as ever when his special teams coaches and players unveiling a never-before-seen man-in-motion play to block a field-goal try by Dolphins kicker Jason Sanders.

Brenden Schooler blocked the 49-yard attempt when he executed an innovative and deceptive play design the Patriots put in during the week.

While the rest of his teammates lined up in their standard defensive positions, Schooler stood about half-

way between his teammates and his sideline. He went in motion, getting a running start and sprinting parallel to the line of scrimmage, timing his rush perfectly just as the ball was snapped.

His momentum allowed him to easily get around the Dolphins' edge protector and dive in nearly untouched for a block that teammate Kyle Dugger recovered.

"As soon as the ball was snapped and I felt myself in the momentum, carrying, I just knew I was going to get there," Schooler said.

Watch out for the copycats this weekend.

Raiders coach Josh McDaniels, who spent several years on Belichick's staff scheming innovative play designs, said he expects other teams to attempt to do the same thing Schooler did after watching the Patriots run the play to perfection. "If it works, then it tends to be stolen," McDaniels said Monday.

"That's what the nature of the profession of coaches is all about." □

Grievance filed by NFL says players' union leaders advised running backs to fake injuries

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL has filed a grievance against the NFL Players Association, alleging that union leaders, including President JC Tretter, have advised running backs to "consider feigning or exaggerating injuries" to help increase their leverage in contract negotiations.

The grievance was filed on Sept. 11 and will be reviewed by an arbitrator.

In a memo sent to the league's management council executive committee and obtained by The Associated Press, the NFL said the union made the suggestion to running backs during a Zoom meet-

ing before the season.

Any player who took the union's advice and faked an injury would be violating the collective bargaining agreement, the league argued.

"This conduct is a clear violation of the union's agreement to use 'best efforts to faithfully carry out the terms and conditions of the (CBA)' and 'to see that the terms and conditions of all NFL Player Contracts are carried out in full by players,'" the memo said. "The union's conduct is also reckless as any player that chooses to follow this advice and improperly withhold services under his player contract will be subject to discipline and

financial liability under the CBA, club rules, and/or the player's contract."

The league's grievance seeks for the union to "cease and desist from such improper conduct as well as other remedies that the arbitrator may deem appropriate."

Giants star running back Saquon Barkley and Raiders All-Pro Josh Jacobs refused to sign their \$10.1 million franchise tags and were unhappy about not getting long-term contracts.

Colts RB Jonathan Taylor has been involved in a contract dispute and was placed on the physically unable to perform list to start the season because he's recovering from off-

season ankle surgery.

Tretter spoke openly about the contract issues running backs are facing on former NFL player Ross Tucker's

podcast in July. "You need to try to create as much leverage as you possibly can," Tretter said. □



Indianapolis Colts running back Jonathan Taylor runs up field during the first half of an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings, Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

Duane Bock thought he would have the summer off. Now the caddie is going to the Ryder Cup

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

Duane Bock finally gets a chance to caddie in the Ryder Cup, and to have told him that at the start of the year would have meant only one thing.

"That Kevin Kisner had a great year," Bock said Monday as he unpacked from a quick trip to Europe to see two golf courses that were not on his original itinerary. That's not how it worked out.

Bock, who grew up on Long Island and is known for having calves as big as tree trunks, will be working for Sepp Straka as part of Team Europe next week at Marco Simone in Italy.

Kisner and Bock had been together 14 years, one of the longer player-caddie relationships. Bock figured he wouldn't work for anyone else, and they often joked about who would retire first. That moment came unexpectedly and temporarily in June.

Kisner felt he needed to step away from too much bad golf and a desire to be home with his wife and three young children. He withdrew after one round of the Travelers Championship, and Bock headed home to North Carolina.

"I thought it was going to



Kevin Kisner, right, listens to his caddie Duane Bock, before hitting on the 15th tee during the third round of The Players Championship golf tournament on May 9, 2015, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

be a summer of watching my kids play golf tournaments," Bock said.

That's when his year took a turn he never saw coming. Straka decided it was time to change caddies, knew Bock from his many practice rounds with Kisner and called to ask if he could fill in for him.

They won the John Deere Classic. Two weeks later, Straka was a runner-up to fellow Georgia alum Brian Harman in the British Open.

Not a bad start for a player-caddie tandem that really didn't know each other all that well.

Bock knew Straka was born in Austria and moved to Valdosta, Georgia, when he was 14. He didn't realize Straka had a twin brother who caddied for him at the Tokyo Olympics. He didn't know Straka had never played under any flag but Austria.

"All those things you don't talk about during practice

rounds," he said.

But then he heard Straka field questions about his Ryder Cup chances after he won the John Deere Classic. And during a practice round at Royal Liverpool, Bock was surprised to see European captain Luke Donald approach them to walk a few holes.

"He told me had his eye on Sepp, that he was on a short list," Bock said. "I knew it was serious when Luke started walking with

us. He finished second. And I thought, 'If he was on a short list before this, that list has gotten a little bit shorter.'" The first thing Bock did upon hearing Straka was picked for the Ryder Cup team was to change out the Presidents Cup cover on his yardage book.

The American caddie is now part of Team Europe. Bock isn't the only American to work for a European player. Adam Hayes has worked for Jon Rahm since the powerful Spaniard turned pro in 2016, and he has been with Rahm at Ryder Cup matches in France and Wisconsin.

Before that, the late Lance Ten Broeck caddied for Jesper Parnevik in 1999 at Brookline and in 2002 at The Belfry, and Jerry Higginbotham was looping for Sergio Garcia at Brookline. For the American team, this will be the third Ryder Cup that Ricky Elliott of Northern Ireland works for Brooks Koepka.

"For me, it wasn't weird," Hayes said. "You never want to be part of a losing team. And you're part of a team. You want your guy to play well and your team to win. I didn't even think about it. Dewey will be fine. He'll fit right in with the guys." □

Hurdling record holder Tobi Amusan's whereabouts case heads to the Court of Arbitration for Sport



Tobi Amusan, of Nigeria competes in a Women's 100-meters hurdles semifinal during the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023.

Associated Press

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
AP National Writer

Anti-doping regulators are appealing a decision that exonerated world-record hurdler Tobi Amusan from a violation for missing drug tests that could have cost her a year or more out of the sport.

The Athletics Integrity Unit said Monday it filed its appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport last week.

The AIU provisionally suspended Amusan for missing three tests in the span of a year, but an appeals panel overturned the suspension, which allowed

her to compete earlier this summer at world championships, where she finished sixth. "I'm here competing and that's all that matters. Next," she said, in a testy series of exchanges with reporters after the opening heats, when she was repeatedly asked whether the uncertainty had bothered her. On Sunday, the Nigerian hurdler closed out the Diamond League season with a victory at the Prefontaine Classic.

On the same track in Eugene, Oregon, at worlds in 2022, Amusan shocked fans by running a world re-

cord 12.12 seconds in the 100 hurdles in the semifinal round. She won the gold in a time of 12.06 that did not go into the record books because the tailwind was too strong.

Two months ago, she took to social media to announce she had been accused of a so-called whereabouts violation. Elite athletes have to provide detailed logs of where they'll be during parts of each day so they can be approached for "no-notice" tests. Those who miss three tests in the span of the year can be sanctioned. □